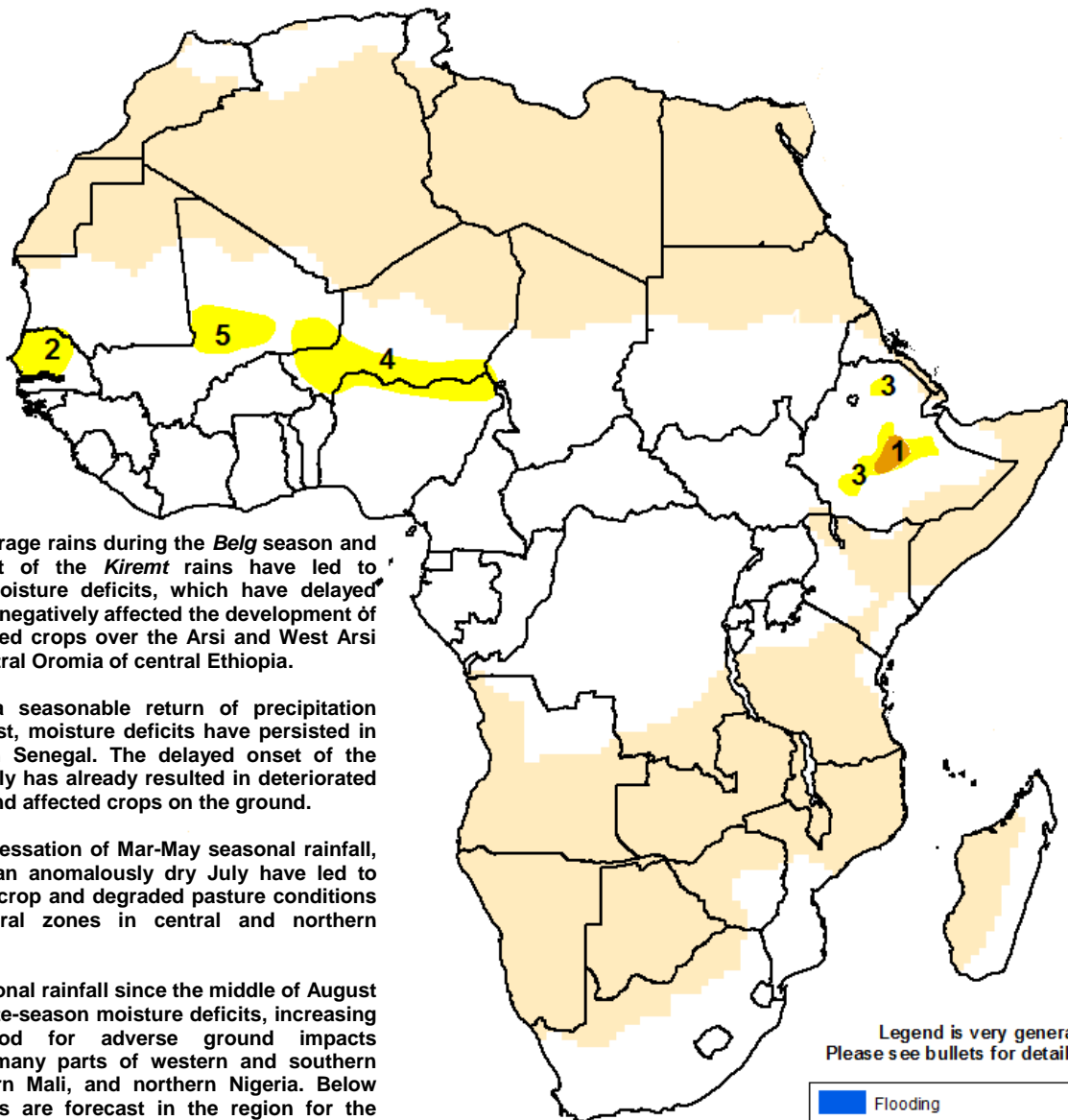




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook September 25 – October 1, 2014

- Favorable, late-season rains were received throughout many regions of West Africa during the last week.
- A seasonable distribution of rains was received across East Africa during late September.



1) Below-average rains during the *Belg* season and a late onset of the *Kiremt* rains have led to persistent moisture deficits, which have delayed planting and negatively affected the development of already-planted crops over the Arsi and West Arsi zones in central Oromia of central Ethiopia.

2) Despite a seasonable return of precipitation during August, moisture deficits have persisted in northwestern Senegal. The delayed onset of the season in July has already resulted in deteriorated conditions and affected crops on the ground.

3) An early cessation of Mar-May seasonal rainfall, as well as, an anomalously dry July have led to deteriorated crop and degraded pasture conditions across several zones in central and northern Ethiopia.

4) Poor seasonal rainfall since the middle of August has led to late-season moisture deficits, increasing the likelihood for adverse ground impacts throughout many parts of western and southern Niger, eastern Mali, and northern Nigeria. Below average rains are forecast in the region for the upcoming outlook period.

5) Poor July rains throughout several local regions in Mali have resulted in degraded crop and pastoral conditions. August and September rains have continued to help improve ground impacts.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.

Blue	Flooding
Yellow	Abnormal Dryness
Orange	Drought
Brown	Severe Drought
Red	Tropical Cyclone
Pink	Potential Locust Outbreak
Light Blue	Heavy Snow
Purple	Abnormal Cold
Dark Red	Abnormal Heat
Light Orange	Seasonally Dry

Improving rainfall observed in Senegal to help relieve dryness.

During the last observation period, well-distributed moderate rains were received throughout West Africa, with the heaviest weekly accumulations felt across many regions of Senegal, Guinea, and Cote d'Ivoire. Local station reports reflect this favorable increase in rains, with as much as 100mm of rain reported in western Senegal. Across the rest of the Sahel, weekly rainfall was lesser in amount, however, the northern limit of seasonal rains continued to cover parts of southern Mauritania, central Mali, and many parts of southern Niger (**Figure 2**). These late-season rains are expected to help mitigate seasonal dryness concerns in Senegal, Mali and Niger.

In Senegal, a poor onset of seasonal rains in July was followed by a favorable recovery August. However, below-average rains since late August/early September led to a re-strengthening of moisture deficits, particularly in the Kaolack, Thies, Kaffrine, and Matam provinces in the country. Here, many local areas have experienced less than 60 percent of their normal rainfall accumulation since the beginning of July according to station reports ending in early September.

In southern and western Niger, a suppression of seasonal precipitation since the middle of August has led to developing dryness throughout the region. Weekly comparison of satellite rainfall anomalies over a running 30 day period depict both an expansion and deepening of moisture deficits. Many local areas in the Dosso, Tillaberi, northern Tahoua, Zinder and Diffa provinces are experiencing 25 to 80 percent of their normal rainfall accumulation since the 3rd dekad of August (**Figure 2**). The continuation of late-season dryness is expected to negatively impact crop and pastoral conditions.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation forecasts suggest another favorable week with average to above-average rainfall accumulations. The highest weekly accumulations (>50mm) are expected across the Gulf of Guinea region, however lesser amounts remain forecast in the Sahel, with a slight suppression of seasonal rainfall over Senegal.

Above-average rains expected in East Africa during the last week.

Since the beginning of September, rainfall throughout East Africa has been predominantly average to above-average with few local areas in Ethiopia experiencing below-average rains. Much of this late-season increase in rains and moisture is expected to benefit areas that have experienced poor and erratic rains earlier this summer. For the upcoming outlook period, a continuation of moderate to locally heavy rains are expected for much of Ethiopia, as well as, in areas further south in Uganda and Kenya (**Figure 3**). Light shower activity is also forecast for several coastal regions in Kenya and Somalia during the end of September.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm) Valid: September 14 – September 20, 2014

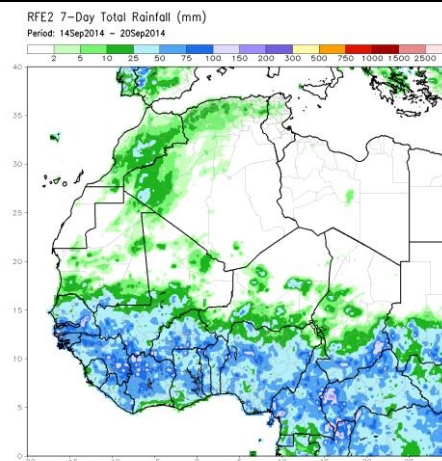


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%) Valid: August 22 – September 20, 2014

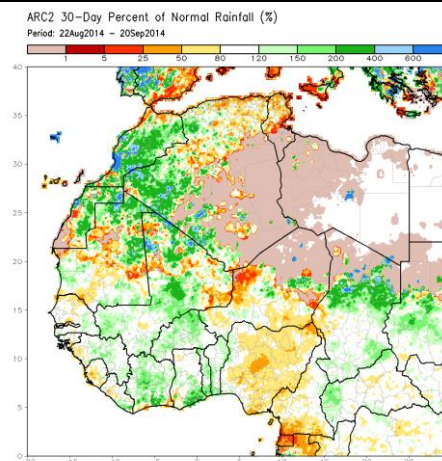


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

GFS Weekly Total Precipitation Forecast (mm) Valid: September 22 – September 29, 2014

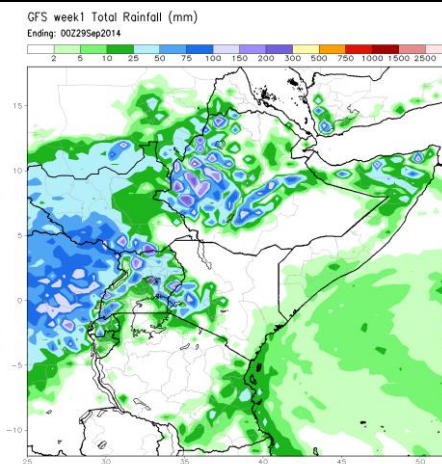


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC